

Citizens with Disabilities Advisory Committee Meeting
May 20, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Members Present: Robert Buchanan, Marga Stone, Caren Wilson, Karen Mckenney, Patricia Kepler, Tony Guillen, Stan Richardson, Bob Lidfors, Jamie Cloghessy.

Members Absent: Michael Whipple.

Guests: Mary Lou Cook of 'All is Pawsible Service Dog School' and service dog owners.

Committee Liaisons: Councilor Marc San Soucie, Brad Roast

Approval of the Previous Meetings Minutes: Patricia made a motion of approve the minutes of the April 15, 2010 meeting, Stan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Reports:

- Councilor San Soucie announced the City has kicked-off a solar panel program that offers significant discounts to the installation of residential solar photovoltaic (electrical generating) systems. The program is currently limited to the first 50 homeowners who sign up. The City's annual Recycle Day will be held on June 5th and will accept many 'hard to recycle' items, including small appliances and many electronic items. The City's Budget Committee will be meeting during the week of May 24th to finalize a City budget (for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010) that will be presented to the City Council for adoption in late June.
- Brad reported on the Tri-Met Board meeting that was held at City Hall on April 28th. Brad asked Tri-Met staff about information for accessible public transportation and was provide information on Web links for that purpose (Brad provided handouts of this information). Tri-Met has a Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee that among other things provides Tri-Met with recommendations on use of grant money for transportation services for the elderly and disabled. Tri-Met and Metro will soon beginning a pedestrian and public transportation study. The study will include an audit of walk-ability/usability along transportation dependant road systems (such as Murray Road and Tualatin Valley Highway) to determine how to improve pedestrian safety, use and ridership on public transportation. Councilor San Soucie commented that pedestrian access throughout the City was an important item identified by City's Visioning workshops.

Old Business:

- **Structure of the Committee.** As a continuation of the previous meeting's discussion on the goals matrix, Patricia provided a preparation guideline on the Washington County Community Wide Disability Resource Fair. The guidelines provide a wealth of information for planning and preparation for the Fair. Patricia announced there is a

planning meeting scheduled for June 3rd at 11:30am at The Village Baptist Church on SW Murray Boulevard (330 SW Murray Bl.). Patricia suggested that if the CDAC is going to participate in hosting the event, it would be a good idea for some committee members to attend. Patricia, Caren and Jamie volunteered to participate in the planning meeting. Patricia mentioned that she was unable to get in touch with Cindy Wilkins who participated in past Fairs, but will continue to make contact and Cindy and invite her to the next meeting. Councilor San Soucie mentioned that as the CDAC looks to participate in events such as the Resource Fair, they could look to partner with other committees such as the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

- Another item that was discussed is the CDAC's participation in the upcoming City 'Picnic in the Park'. Marga volunteered to gather the events schedule and locations for the next meeting so the committee can discuss attending the event.
- Review of Work Plan. This was part of the above discussion.
- Mental Health Client Training (future).

New Business:

- Mary Lou Cook of 'All is Pawsible Service Dog School' attended to bring attention to the challenges service dogs and their owners are having with businesses and the public who often don't recognize Service Dogs and their rights under the ADA. A case in point was a citizen who accompanied Ms. Cook who explained a recent encounter with a local business. The citizen has a service dog that is trained to detect the onset of epileptic seizures. He entered a local business and when the business owner noticed the service dog, he told the citizen to get his dog out of his business because he was allergic to animals. The citizen tried to explain to the owner that his dog was a service dog and was allowed in places of business. The owner demanded that the citizen to get out or he would call the police. The citizen left the business, but the owner followed him outside and began screaming at him, getting more aggressive and at one point grabbed the citizen. The police were called and the citizen was told he did not have the right to bring his service dog into the business (the owner had the right to refuse entry). The citizen indicated he had called the Chief and was informed the same. The citizen has been in contact with the District Attorney about assault charges, and is awaiting the DA's review of surveillance tapes. Councilor San Soucie will follow-up with the Police Department as to what is understood about the rights of service dogs. The committee had a discussion about the lack of public understanding of service animals and their protection under the ADA. Brad suggested that this type information could make for a good Your City news article. Mary Lou Cook explained that service dogs differ greatly from companion animals.
- Mary Lou Cook provided information about her Service Dog School. The two year program has the dog owner participate in the training, so the owner can train the dog in the future to accommodate them as their needs change. The program looks for certain characteristics in the animal and ages that have been found to be the most effective in being able to complete the training course and receive accreditation.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2010